Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of

this legislation, and I commend Chairman Obey, Chairman Murtha, and

Speaker Pelosi for putting it before us today.

I come here also to speak to my colleagues on the other side of the

aisle. With all sincerity, no one questions your patriotism or love of

country. And yet we hear you come down here and belittle the proposal

that we have before us and call Democrats defeatists, when it is you

who have surrendered your judgment. You surrendered that judgment when

you didn't listen to Scowcroft or Eagleberger or Baker or Kissinger or

even Powell or Shinseki.

When you don't listen to the generals or even the soldiers in the

field, you mock men when they stand up here and in principle, like Jack

Murtha, who you know have always stood on behalf of the troops of this

country, and today offers more than $4 billion more that the President

has put forward. But because of your blind, myopic allegiance to a

failed policy, you have surrendered your judgment to what is the right

thing.

Chairman Dreier asked us what is victory. Victory is joining with us

in this proposal. Victory is once again standing on the Capitol steps

hand in hand, as we all were against the war in Afghanistan, and once

again fighting terrorists by going after the guys who actually took

down the buildings, who hit the Pentagon.

Stand with us in the war against terrorism. End this God-awful

situation in Iraq. Provide the Iraqis with the back bone that they need

to stand up by giving them the tough love and the deadlines that this

legislation requires.